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Collection of back assessments in the villages of South Kanara.

* 226 Q.—Mr. K. R. KARANT: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total amount collected in respect of back assessments and cesses and site values in the various villages of the resurveyed areas of South Kanara; and

(b) the amounts that have been levied but remain to be collected?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government do not have the figures asked for. Should it be decided to proceed with the collection of these sums and not to refund them, a report will be called for.

Adjournment of cases granted by the Deputy Tahsildar at Panemangalore Camp.

* 227 Q.—Mr. K. R. KARANT: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many ryots made applications in writing requesting time to be granted to them to file objections to rough pattas before the Deputy Tahsildar of Settlement at his Panemangalore camp held in December 1927 in respect of the various villages which he had posted for objections at the said camp, on the ground that they had not had sufficient time to obtain copies of plans, or for short or insufficient notice or on similar grounds; and

(b) in how many of such cases he granted adjournments?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government are informed that there was one petition requesting adjournment on the ground that the objections could not be stated without obtaining certified copies of the re-survey plans and that the request was refused. The Government have no information about the number of applications for adjournment preferred on other grounds. Applications for adjournment have hitherto been refused by the Special Deputy Tahsildars on the ground that such adjournments would disorganize their programme. Instructions have since been issued for the grant of adjournments in cases in which the rough pattas were not delivered in time to enable the ryots to represent their objections on the date specified.

Legislation to prevent fragmentation of wet lands.

* 228 Q.—Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the fragmentation of wet lands has gone to such an extent that the strips of land have grown too narrow to allow free ploughing;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring in any legislation to put a stop to such fragmentation; and if so, when;

(c) whether there is any minimum extent beyond which the fragmentation ought not to go; and

(d) whether Government have ascertained what kind of legislation was introduced in the Punjab in this matter, and what effect it had on the people there and whether they would place the materials collected on the table of the House?

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A.—(a), (b), (c) & (d) The hon. Member is referred to Chapter V of the "Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India" which contains the most recent information on the subject of his questions. No proposals for legislation in Madras are at present under the consideration of Government.

Mr. A. Parasurama Rao :—" May I know if this was one of the subjects considered at the Collectors' conference held recently ? "

The hon. the President :—" I am afraid it cannot be allowed to be put as a supplemental question."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" Are the Government aware, Sir, that in Baroda an experiment in fragmentation has been successfully tried ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I am extremely interested to hear that an experiment in fragmentation has been tried."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" Are the Government aware of the experiment and are they taking any interest in following that ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I take it, Sir, that the hon. Member wishes to inform Government that the experiment in consolidation of holdings is taking place in Baroda."

Mr. Mahamud Schamnad :—" Are the Government aware that people —that is, petty landholders—are against any consolidation of small holdings ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I believe there is considerable difference of opinion on the point."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether the Government consider it necessary at all to bring in some kind of legislation in this matter ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" There has been no decision on that point so far."

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu :—" The answer says : 'No proposals for legislation in Madras are at present under the consideration of Government.' Clause (b) of the question asks whether there is a proposal for legislation to put a stop to fragmentation. Has this question been under the consideration of Government ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" The first difficulty in the matter is to ascertain the facts regarding fragmentation."

Survey

Re-survey in South Kanara.

*229 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how far the re-survey has been carried on in South Kanara and how far it is proposed or decided to extend it further ;

(b) whether complaints have been received in connexion with the re-survey done in the Kasaragod taluk, and if so, in what respects ;